

AN APPROPRIATE RESPONSE

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Psalm 116:1-19

1. Thanksgiving is the one holiday that remained true to its original intent until recently.
2. That is no longer the case because merchandizers of all sorts came to realize the potential that the four-day Thanksgiving weekend represented.
3. "It is good to give thanks to the Lord." Psalm 92:1
4. "In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
1 Thessalonians 5:18
5. "...be thankful." Colossians 3:15
6. In the first eleven verses of this Psalm David:
 - a. Wrote about his reliance on prayer in a time of great difficulty. 1-4
 - b. Testified as to how God answered his prayer. 5-11
 - "I was brought low, and He saved me."
 - "For You have rescued my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling..."

NOTE: God's gracious oversight of our lives will not be fully known until we get to heaven.
7. In light of God's graciousness towards him the Psalmist asked, "What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits toward me?" (Reasonable question!)

I. I shall lift up the cup of salvation.

- A. I shall lift up (and drink from) the cup of salvation.
(I will thankfully receive from God's hand all that He offers me in and through Jesus Christ.)
- B. I shall lift up (and offer to others) the cup of salvation.

II. I shall call upon the name of the Lord. (Note again verses 1-2)

- A. "Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving."
Colossians 4:2
- B. "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Philippians 4:6

III. I shall pay my vows to the Lord, yes, in the presence of all His people.

- A. What I promise I will perform; what I commit myself to I will persevere in.
- B. Circumstances sometimes prevented David from participating in corporate worship, but he prayed earnestly that he would be able to live before and worship with God's people.

IV. I am Your servant...You have loosed my bonds.

A. We were slaves to sin. Romans 6:17-18

“But thanks be to God that though you were slaves to sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves (servants) of righteousness.”

B. As we serve the Lord we manifest thankfulness towards Him.

1. Our worship is to be an expression of gratitude towards God. Col 3:15-16

16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

2. Every aspect of our lives is to be characterized by thankfulness. Col 3:17

17 Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

V. To You I shall offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving.

A. Heb 13:15-16

Through Him then, **let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God**, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name. 16 **and do not neglect doing good and sharing**, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

1. We are to continuously express our gratitude to God through prayer and personal testimony.

2. Having been blessed we are to be a blessing.

B. In writing about the end of the church age Paul declared the following. 2 Tim 3:1-5

But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. 2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, **ungrateful**, unholy, 3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, 4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.

NOTE: We are to manifest gratitude towards God though surrounded by ingratitude.

APPLICATION

1. Have you responded to God's gracious offer of salvation?

2. If you have then heed Paul's words in Romans 12:1

“I appeal to you therefore, brethren, and beg of you in view of (all) the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies—presenting all your members and faculties—as a living sacrifice, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well-pleasing to God, which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent) service and worship.” (Amp)

3. As one person put it, “The art of thanksgiving is thanks-living. It is gratitude in action.”